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PIC/JR-1006/61

March 1961

JOINT PHOTOGRAPHIC INTELLIGENCE REPORT

# LAUNCH COMPLEX "G"

## SURFACE-TO-SURFACE MISSILE FACILITIES

### KAPUSTIN YAR/VLADIMIROVKA

### MISSILE TEST CENTER, USSR



ARMY



NAVY

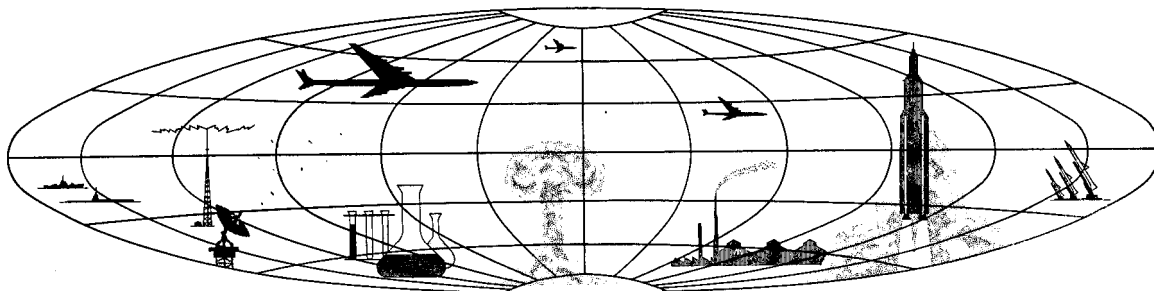


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## PREFACE

This joint photographic intelligence report has been prepared by the Army, Navy, and Central Intelligence Agency as a partial answer to a general requirement for a detailed analysis of the Kapustin Yar/Vladimirovka Missile Test Center. The purpose of this report is to present a detailed photo analysis of Launch Complex "G", one of several comprising the Surface-to-Surface Missile Facilities. Analysis is also under way on other Test Center facilities, including the Surface-to-Air Missile Facilities and the Probable Aerodynamic Missile Facilities. Each of these remaining complexes or facilities will also be the subject of a subsequent report.

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Insofar as possible, this report includes a comparison of [REDACTED] [REDACTED] photography, and the line drawings portray in green all changes and additions subsequent to the [REDACTED] coverage. All reported azimuths are referenced from true north, and the term miles refers to nautical miles.

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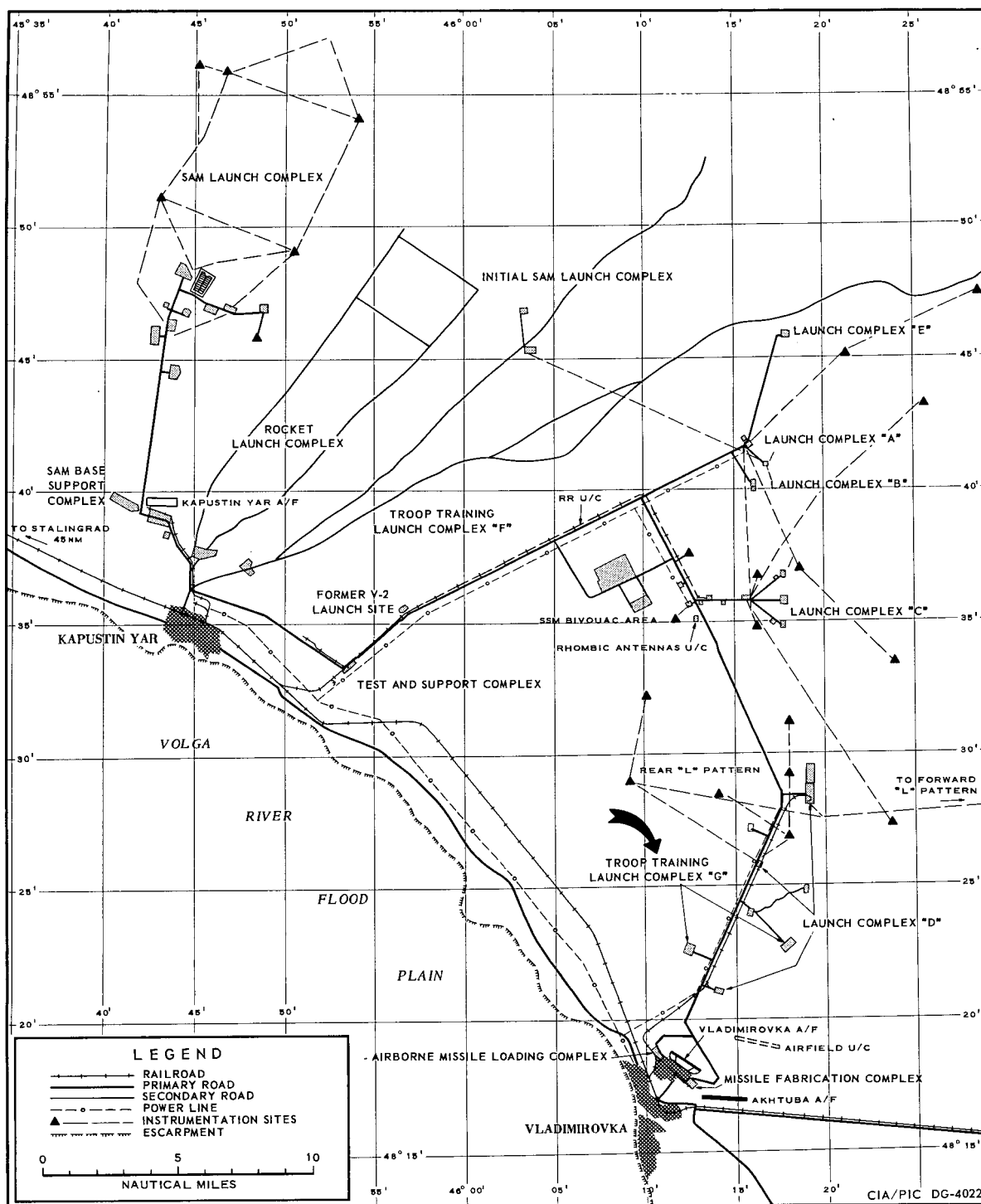


FIGURE 1. KAPUSTIN YAR/VLADIMIROVKA MISSILE TEST CENTER, Troop Training Launch Complex "G", like other facilities shown in green, was added between [REDACTED]

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## INTRODUCTION

The Surface-to-Surface Missile Facilities, which constitute the largest, most varied, and most widely dispersed group in the Kapustin Yar/Vladimirovka Missile Test Center, comprise the following eight complexes: Launch Complexes "A", "B", "C", and "E"; Troop Training Launch Complexes "F" and "G"; the Rocket Launch Complex; and the Test and Support Complex (Figure 1). The former V-2 launch site, now abandoned, is also located in the area of the SSM Facilities. All these complexes are supported from Kapustin Yar with the exception of Troop Training Launch Complex "G", which receives support from Vladimirovka.

25X1D [REDACTED] photography of Launch Complex "G" provides the first view of an operational Soviet missile in a tactical firing position, complete with its ground support equipment. The configuration of the missile and its associated equipment closely resemble the German V-2 type system, known to have been improved upon by the Soviets. Four additional missiles, canvas covered and on trailers, have been identified within the complex. At the time of the [REDACTED] photo coverage the complex was active, although certain areas were still under construction; there was no evidence on the [REDACTED] photography suggesting its eventual establishment. It is estimated that the complex was completely operational by [REDACTED]

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Launch Complex "G", which employs a completely road-mobile missile system, consists of two launch areas, a missile storage and handling area, a motor pool and equipment park, a transloading area, and a housing area under construction (Figure 2). The only secured facility is the Missile Storage and Handling Area. These facilities are well dispersed throughout an area which encompasses about 13 square miles. The geographic coordinates of Complex "G" are designated 48-23-30N 46-18-30E, a point midway between the two launch areas.

There is no obvious explanation why this complex has been set apart from the other SSM facilities and positioned among the facilities for Launch Complex "D". It is unusual to find a complex of this type, normally asso-

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ciated with the Soviet Artillery Forces, located in a part of the Test Center which is thought to be primarily associated with the Soviet Air Force. Moreover, there is an area 5 miles long between Launch Complexes "C" and "D" which would have provided more than adequate space in which to locate this relatively small launch complex. None of the facilities related to missile launching or handling are rail served, but perhaps utilization of the existing branch rail line leading out of Vladimirovka was a decisive factor in the placement of this complex at this location.

Since the Housing Area was still under construction at the time of photography and one launch area was active, the troops participating in the field exercise were probably billeted in Vladimirovka.

#### LAUNCH AREAS

The launching facilities at Complex "G" consist of two unsecured launch areas for the training of troops under actual field conditions. These two areas, designated Launch Area 1G and Launch Area 2G (Figure 2), are located about two miles east of the main road and branch rail line leading from Vladimirovka, and a point midway between the launch areas is about 4.5 miles south of the launch area for the Probable Aerodynamic Missile Facilities. These two launch areas and the other surface-to-surface missile launch areas form a line which is oriented generally north/south. It will be noted (Figure 2) that missiles readied at the Missile Storage and Handling Area must be transported more than 6 miles to either launch area.

At the time of photography, Launch Area 1G (48-25-00N 46-19-00E) was in an early stage of construction, while Launch Area 2G (48-22-30N 46-17-30E), located approximately two miles to the south, was complete and operational. The dissimilarity of these two areas is well marked. In [REDACTED] Launch Area 1G contained two pads which will probably be hard surfaced when completed; Launch Area 2G contained three field train-

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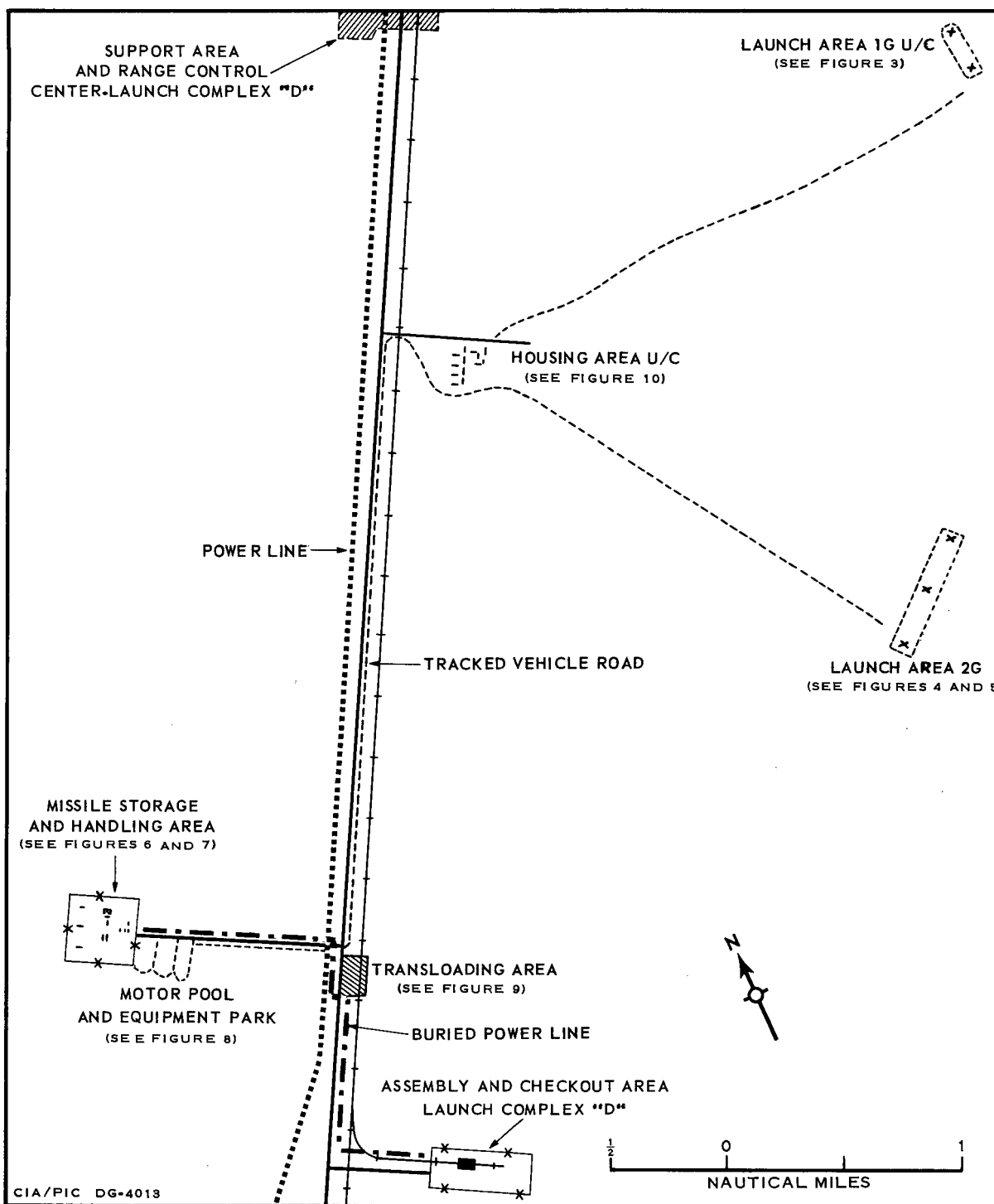


FIGURE 2. TROOP TRAINING LAUNCH COMPLEX "G". Note location and association of areas comprising this complex.

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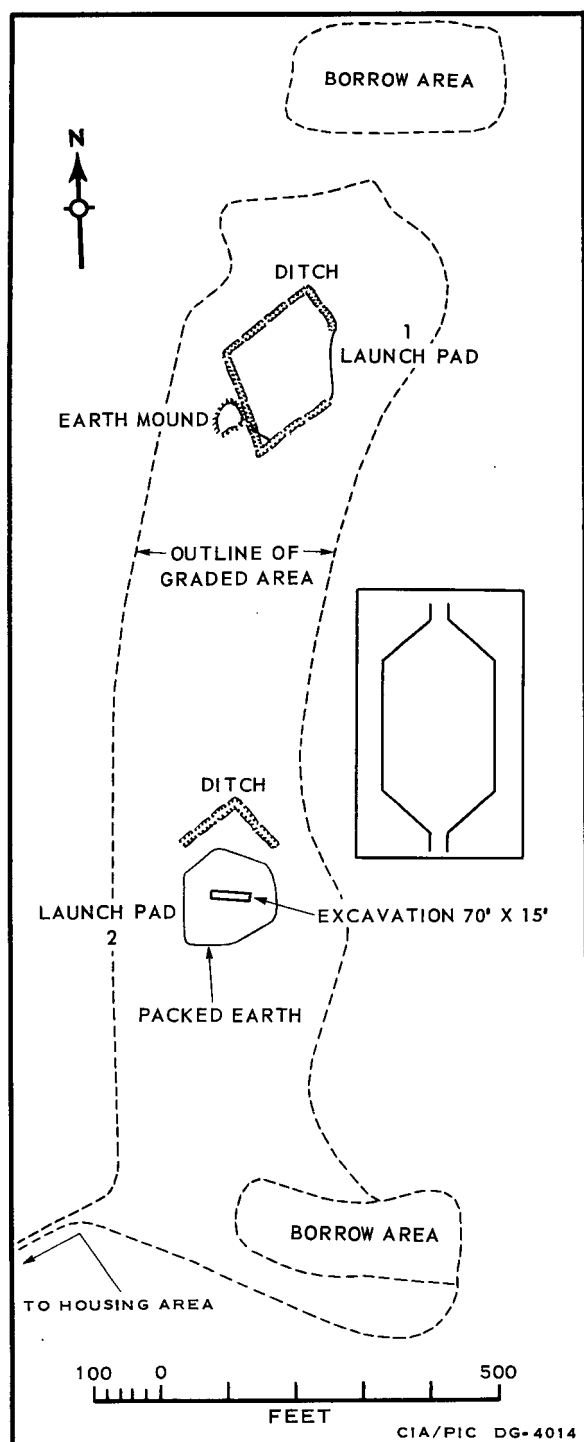


FIGURE 3. LAUNCH AREA 1G. Status of construction indicates that the ultimate configuration of the two pads may be like that shown in the inset.

ing sites with no hardened facilities. As expected for a complex of this type, no fixed instrumentation sites have been identified. Instrumentation will probably be provided by truck or trailer van at each launch area.

### Launch Area 1G

Launch Area 1G (Figure 3) consists of two launch pads in an early stage of construction. In

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there were no indications that any other associated facilities, such as a control bunker, vehicle revetments, or permanent electronics installations, would be constructed at this launch area. It is estimated that construction of the pads would have been completed by

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At the time of photography, access to this launch area was by means of a well-traveled vehicle track passing through the Housing Area, along the main road from Vladimirovka. However, an all-weather road under construction leads east from the Housing Area, and will probably be extended to Launch Area 1G. At the time of overflight, each pad was composed of packed earth from nearby borrow areas,

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and the surfaces were raised slightly above the surrounding terrain, which had been graded. A perpendicular to a line drawn through the approximate centers of the two pads is oriented eastward along an azimuth of 95 degrees.

Item 1 - Launch pad under construction: The ultimate size and shape of this pad may be approximated by four shallow ditches, shown as dashed lines, which form a diamond-like configuration. The longer axis measures 270 feet. A mound of earth to be used as fill is located just southwest of the pad.

Item 2 - Launch pad under construction: The second pad, located 800 feet to the south, contains two perimeter ditches at the north end which form a "V" similar to those formed by ditches at either end of the other pad. The west edge of the pad fill is evened off in such a manner that the point at the west end of the "V" ditch lies along the same straight line that bounds the west edge of the fill. This line and the configuration of the ditch may be suggestive of the shape of the completed pad as indicated in the inset. If this assumption is correct, the shape of these two pads would then closely resemble the two pads under construction in [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] at Launch Area 2C, Complex "C". A rectangular excavation 70 by 15 feet and approximately [REDACTED] deep is located in what will probably be the center of the pad. The longer axis of this excavation has an azimuth of 95 degrees.

#### LAUNCH AREA 2G

Launch Area 2G consists of three almost identical field-type troop training sites. Each site has a small prepared launch point, six vehicle or equipment revetments, several graded vehicle hardstands, a tent to shelter the missile, and a personnel trench and tent. These three sites form a straight line and are spaced about 2,000 feet apart. A perpendicular to a line connecting these three launch points is oriented southeastward along an azimuth of approximately 140 degrees.

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At the time of photography, the southernmost of the three sites (Figures 4 and 5) was active; at the launch point there was an erected missile with ground support equipment, including two liquid propellant vehicles,

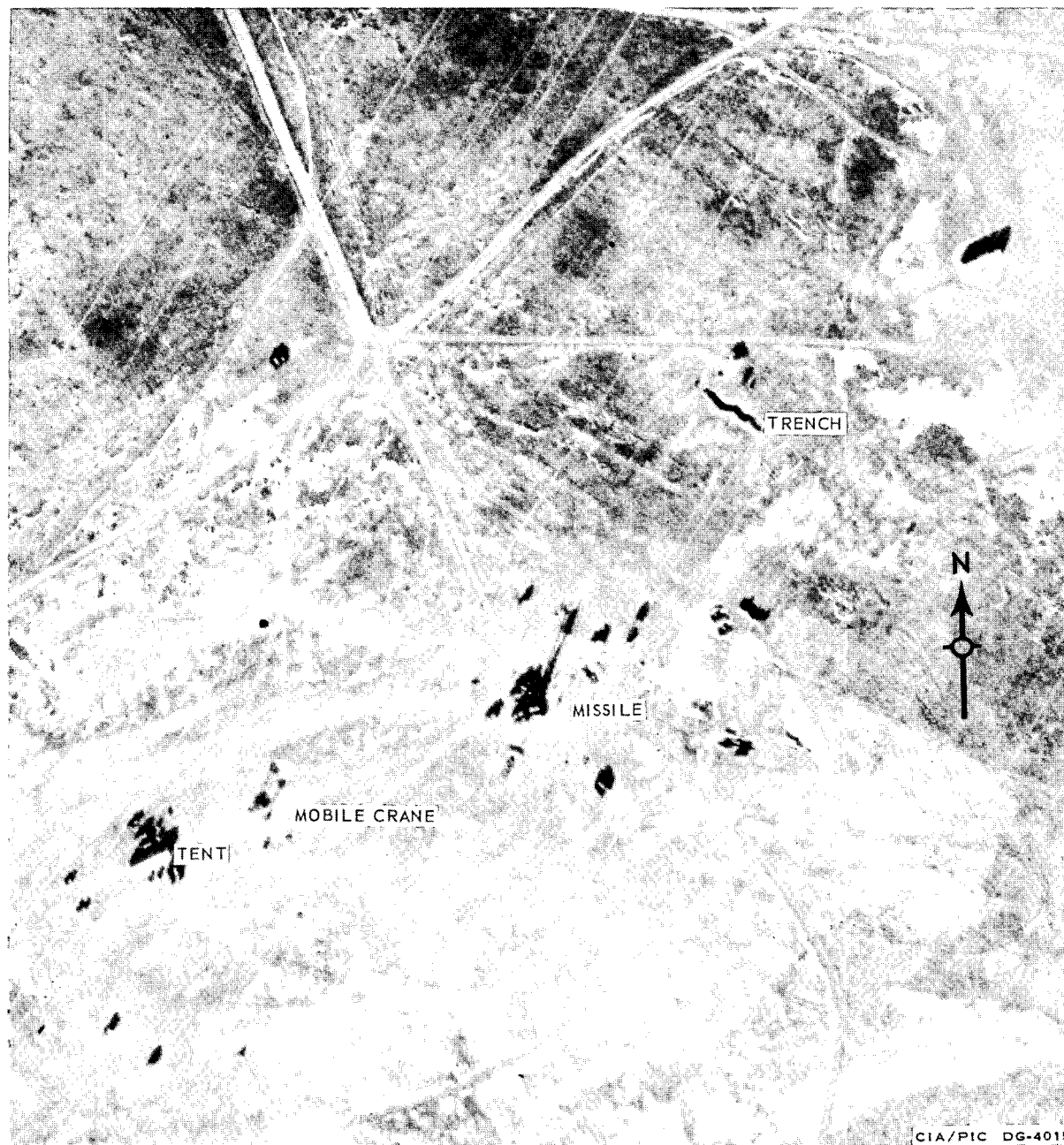


FIGURE 4. LAUNCH AREA 2G. The arrangement of vehicles and equipment may be typical of that found at operational sites. Note shadow cast by erected missile and mobile crane (photography).

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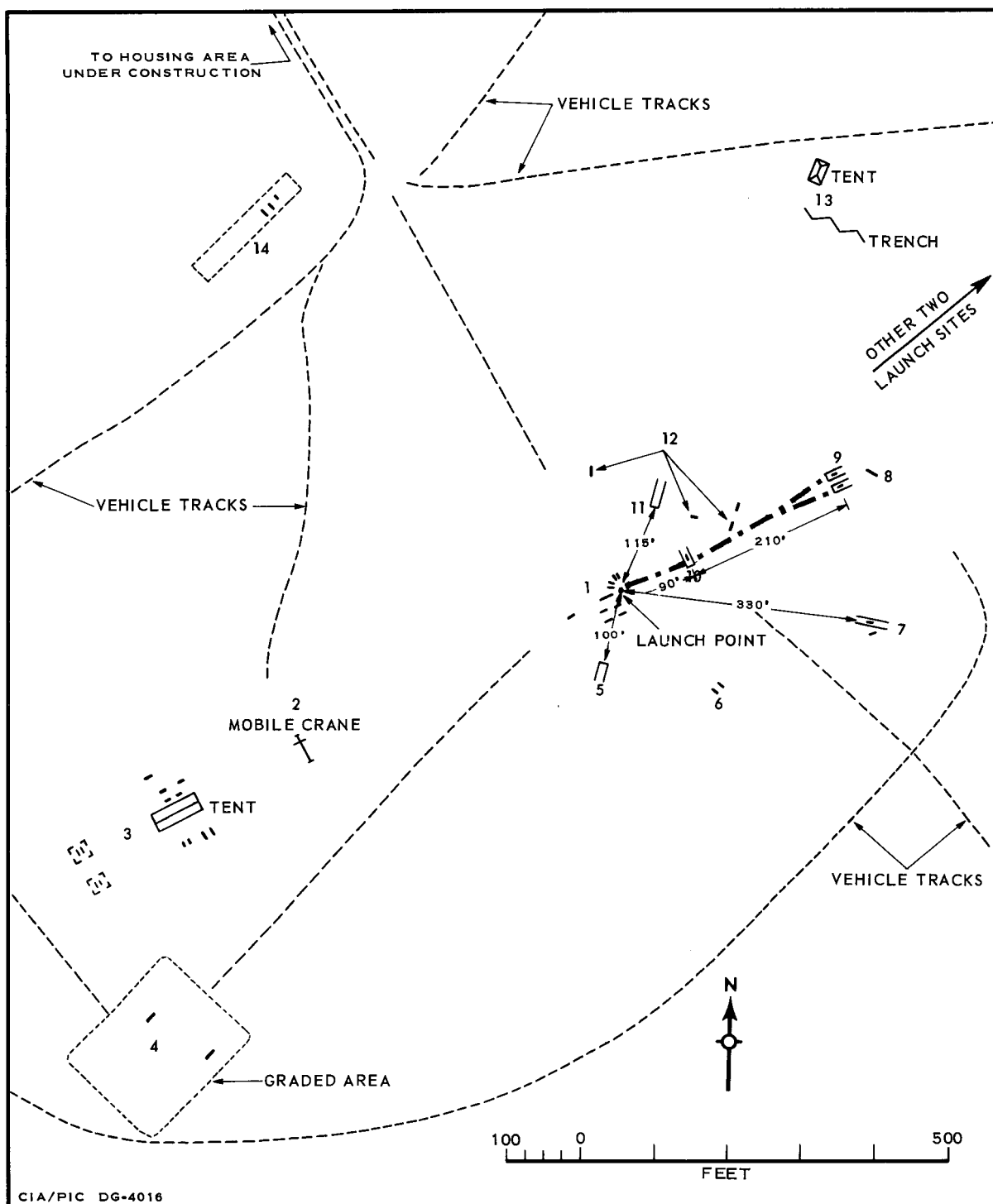


FIGURE 5. ACTIVE TRAINING SITE, LAUNCH AREA 2G. This site consists primarily of a prepared launch point and six vehicle or equipment revetments, and has 42 vehicles and/or pieces of equipment.

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clustered around its base. A total of 42 pieces of equipment were present at the site. The presence of an apparently full complement of servicing vehicles, together with control and monitoring vehicles, suggests that either a live or dry-run fueling and final checkout operation was under way. The missile itself, between [REDACTED] in length, together with its ground support equipment, closely resembles modified V-2 equipment. The Soviets are known to have developed a modified V-2 some [REDACTED] long, with a nominal range of 200 nautical miles, and a further modification, known as the Korolov missile, [REDACTED] long, with a nominal range of 350 nautical miles. The missile at Launch Complex "G" could be either of these, since it is not possible to determine its height accurately. The modified V-2, designated SS-2, was operational in [REDACTED] while the Korolov, designated SS-3, had an Initial Operational Capability (IOC) of [REDACTED]. It is, therefore, reasonable to presume that either one of these missiles could have been observed in a training exercise by [REDACTED]

Since all three sites are nearly identical, only the site active at the time of overflight is discussed in detail. Item numbers correspond to those on Figure 5.

Item 1 - Launch point: An erected missile, approximately [REDACTED] in diameter, is positioned at this launch point. It is probably resting on some type of portable launching table.

Four trucks, a missile erector, three tracked prime movers, and two propellant trucks are positioned in that order counterclockwise around the base of the missile.

Item 2 - Mobile crane: A collapsible mobile crane 40 feet long and 25 feet high, with a missile transporter parked beneath, is located about 650 feet from the launch point. Another crane of this type, in the collapsed position, is located in the same relative position at the launch site located farthest north.

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Item 3 - Tent: A tent for on-site checkout of missiles measures 70 by 25 feet and is located 700 feet from the launch point. Tents having the same dimensions are located at the other two sites. Four ZIS/ZIL 150 or 151 trucks, one GAZ 51 truck, and eight small van-type trailers are located around the tent. Four of these trailers, located 90 feet southwest of the tent, are paired-off and uniformly positioned on two prepared hard-stands.

Item 4 - Trucks: Two van-type vehicles, possibly for monitoring purposes, are located 850 feet from the launch point. These vehicles are 75 feet apart and face away from the missile.

Item 5 - Vehicle revetment: This revetment, unoccupied and measuring 30 by 15 feet, is located 100 feet from and with its closed end toward the launch point.

Item 6 - Trucks: Two van-type vehicles are located 200 feet from and facing away from the erected missile.

Item 7 - Drive-through revetment: A drive-through revetment measuring 50 by 10 feet is located 330 feet from the launch point. Its longer axis is oriented toward the launch point. One van-type vehicle is in the revetment and another is parked adjacent to it.

Item 8 - Unidentified object: An unidentified vehicle or piece of equipment measuring 50 feet overall is located 375 feet northeast of the launch point. Its configuration suggests no apparent function.

Item 9 - Equipment revetments: Two equipment revetments, each measuring 25 by 10 feet, are located about 300 feet from the launch point. Each contains a small trailer. Cables lead from these revetments toward a nearby equipment revetment (Item 10).

Item 10 - Equipment revetment: This equipment revetment, located about 90 feet from the erected missile, measures 35 by 10 feet and contains a small trailer. The revetment is unique among those at this site in that its longer axis is oriented at an angle of 90 degrees with respect to a line drawn from it to the launch point. A cable leads from the revetment toward the base of the missile.

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Item 11 - Vehicle revetment: An unoccupied vehicle revetment measuring 40 by 10 feet is located 115 feet from the launch point.

Item 12 - Trucks: There are four trucks parked approximately 160 feet from the launch point. One is located to the north while the other three are located to the northeast of the launch point.

Item 13 - Tent: A tent measuring 30 by 20 feet with an adjacent personnel trench measuring 115 feet overall, is located 600 feet from the launch point.

Item 14 - Parking area: Two ZIS/ZIL trucks (cargo-type) and one GAZ 69 utility vehicle (jeep-type) are parked on a 180-by-25-foot graded earthen strip located near the access road to this site.

### SUPPORT FACILITIES

The support facilities within Troop Training Launch Complex "G" consist of a Missile Storage and Handling Area (48-22-30N 46-12-00E), a Motor Pool and Equipment Part (48-22-30N 46-12-30E), a Transloading Area (48-22-00N 46-13-30E), and a Housing Area under construction (48-24-30N 46-15-30E). These facilities are situated along both sides of the road and branch rail line between Vladimirovka and Launch Complex "D".

#### Missile Storage and Handling Area

The Missile Storage and Handling Area (Figures 6 and 7) is located about one mile from the Transloading Area and 6 miles from the launch areas. This area is secured by two wire fences 180 feet apart, seven guard towers, and a security building. It is the only secured area in the complex. The outer fence measures 1,785 feet on a side. The inner fence is about 1,450 feet on a side and encompasses an area of about 45 acres. The most prominent features in the area include six drive-through buildings, a large revetment enclosing an explosives storage building, and numerous loop roads. This area, the only one of its kind within the SSM

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Facilities, may be significant as a signature indicating deployed missile units. The road pattern within the area is indicative of a well-planned missile support area. A detailed description follows; item numbers correspond to those on Figure 6.

Items 1, 2, and 3 - Missile/component storage buildings: Three single-story, gable-roofed, drive-through buildings are located in the western portion of the area. They provide a total of 17,500 square feet of storage area. These buildings, like many others in the area, are serviced by a good loop-road network. One building (Item 1) measures 140 by 45 feet and has an appendage measuring 65 by 20 feet in line with its long axis. The second building (Item 2) is identical to the first (140 by 45 feet) except that the appendage is missing. The end doors of these two buildings are about 15 feet wide and 10 feet high. The third building (Item 3) measures 80 by 45 feet and has an end door 20 feet wide and 10 feet high.

Item 4 - Two assembly/checkout buildings: Two identical single-story, gable-roofed, drive-through buildings, each measuring 140 by 40 feet, are located on a large concrete apron south of the main access road. They are parallel and 75 feet apart. Missiles or components of missiles are received from the storage buildings and are assembled and/or checked out in either building. Since there are two buildings, it appears that two missiles can be processed simultaneously. Five unidentified objects, located 125 feet south of these buildings, are positioned on a short extension of the apron.

Item 5 - Assembly/checkout building: A monitor-roofed building, measuring 105 by 45 feet is located on the north side of the main access road and is centered in line between the other two assembly/checkout buildings (Item 4). The monitor portion is 60 feet long, 45 feet wide and in the center of the building. The end doors are not visible; the east side contains three windows in the center section and one window in each end section. It is possible that this building would assemble and check out the nose cone component received from the missile/component storage building (Item 3), and the warhead component received from the warhead stor-

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age building in the large revetment (Item 6). This assembled nose cone, with warhead, would then be mated with the missile body either at this building or, more likely, at the assembly/checkout buildings (Item 4). A semiburied liquid storage tank, 35 feet in diameter, is located near this assembly building. A similar tank is under construction 175 feet to the west of this tank. Possibly both of these tanks will contain water.

Item 6 - Warhead storage building: A small flat-roofed building, about 25 feet square, is located in the center of a large C-shaped earthen revetment. The revetment walls are beveled, about 40 to 45 feet thick at the base, and about 15 feet high. A blast wall, located across the open end of the "C", measures 155 feet long by 40 to 45 feet wide and is the same height. This heavy revetting indicates that a material of a highly explosive nature is stored in the small building. The traveled ways to this building between the revetment and the blast wall are about 25 feet wide, and a vehicle, probably a truck, is parked adjacent to this building.

Item 7 - Shed: This shed, which measures 55 by 25 feet, is located on a graded area near the warhead storage building. It is apparent from the shadows that the sides are partially open. The function of this building cannot be determined; however, it may be a vehicle shelter.

Item 8 - Miscellaneous buildings: Three small single-story buildings are located adjacent to the main access road. The largest, which measures 25 by 20 feet, has a gable roof and is served by a walkway. The other two, which measure 20 feet on a side, are flat-roofed; one is served by a graded roadway. An earth mound is located across the road from the center building.

Item 9 - Steam plant: This facility, which is like those found at many missile support areas in the SSM launch complexes, is served by a road that branches from the main access road. It consists of a single-story flat-roofed building, 40 by 20 feet, with an associated stack 30 feet tall and a parking hardstand 65 feet square. A coal pile is located behind the hardstand.

Item 10 - Hardstand: A hardstand, composed of packed earth, is

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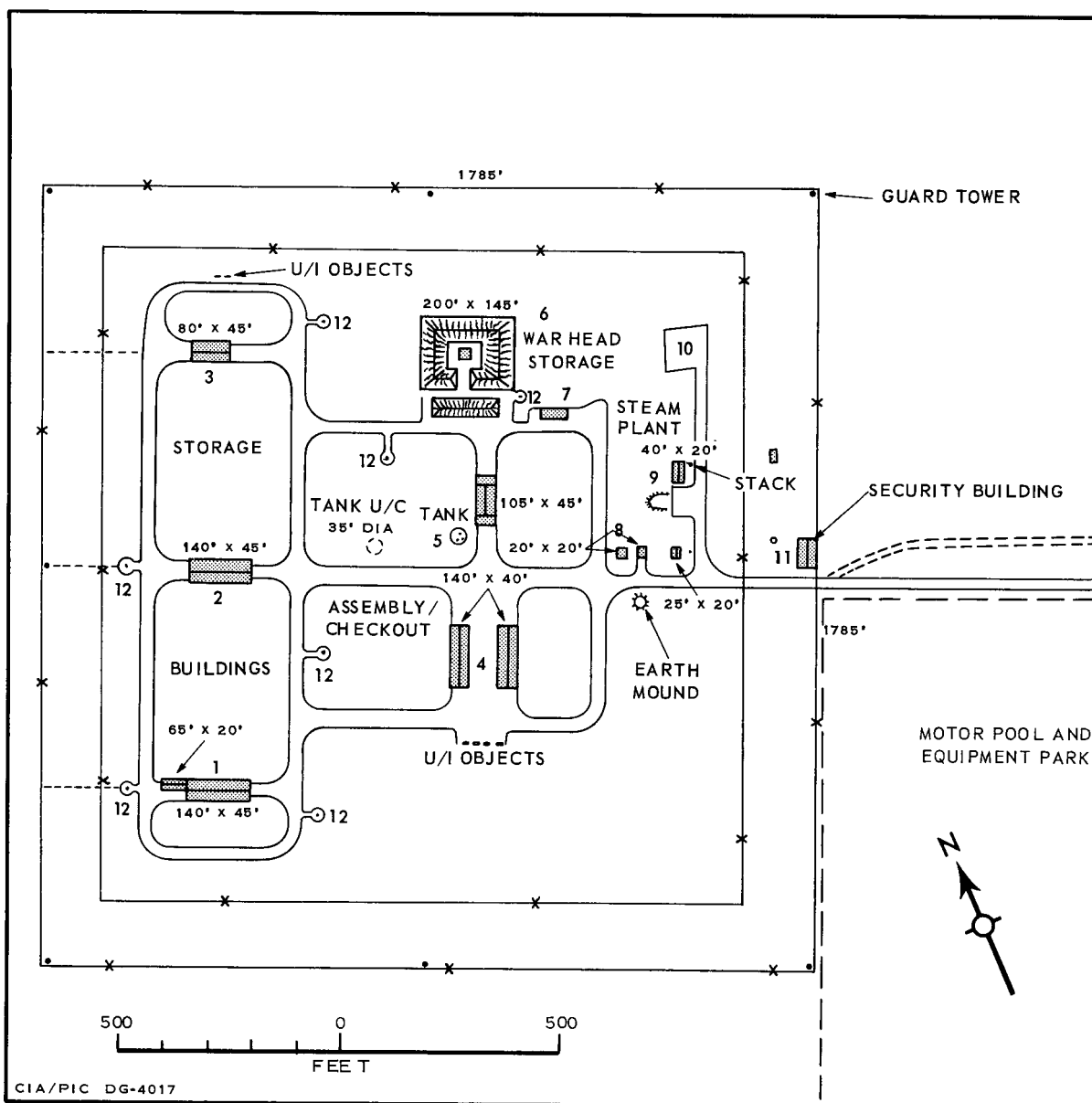


FIGURE 6. MISSILE STORAGE AND HANDLING AREA. The number and layout of buildings at this facility may represent a standard requirement at deployed operational field sites.

located at the end of the road which serves the steam plant. It is slightly askew and measures 100 by 85 feet overall. There is evidence of scarring near the center. The function of this hardstand cannot be determined.

Item 11 - Security building: The security building, located between the fences at the entrance, measures 55 by 35 feet.

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Item 12 - Buried tanks: Seven small buried tanks are located conveniently with respect to significant structures throughout the area. Each tank is served by a narrow road which branches from the loop road system in the area, and each tank has a vertical protrusion at the top which may be a valve. If so, these could be used for fire protection. The nature of the ground in and around this area is such that pipelines cannot be traced; however, it is assumed that these tanks are fed from a common source, probably the water pumping station near the Transloading Area.

#### Motor Pool and Equipment Park

The Motor Pool and Equipment Park (Figure 8) is located adjacent to the Missile Storage and Handling Area and contains a total of 232 vehicles or equipment. It is divided into three distinct sections and is not secured. The three sections are set off by small "dispatcher-type" buildings spaced 460 feet apart and located along the access road to the Missile Storage and Handling Area. Each section is probably intended to serve one of the launch sites at Launch Area 2G. This assumption is further substantiated by the fact that identical types of equipment are present at the active launch site. It may also be noted by examining the table accompanying Figure 8, that the type and count of equipment at the active launch site would seem to complement section three. Within each of the three sections, the vehicles are arranged in the same orderly manner. The equipment and vehicles are aligned in seven rows, with trucks, trailers, vans, prime movers, propellant vehicles, and missile handling equipment arranged generally in that order. Each section also contains a small area to the rear which is probably for first- or second-echelon maintenance of equipment. A comprehensive listing of vehicles and equipment within the complex has been included in Figure 8.

Tracked vehicles located at this facility utilize an unimproved road when moving to other areas within this complex. Two covered missile trailers and a missile erector each being towed by a prime mover were identified in transit along this unimproved road.

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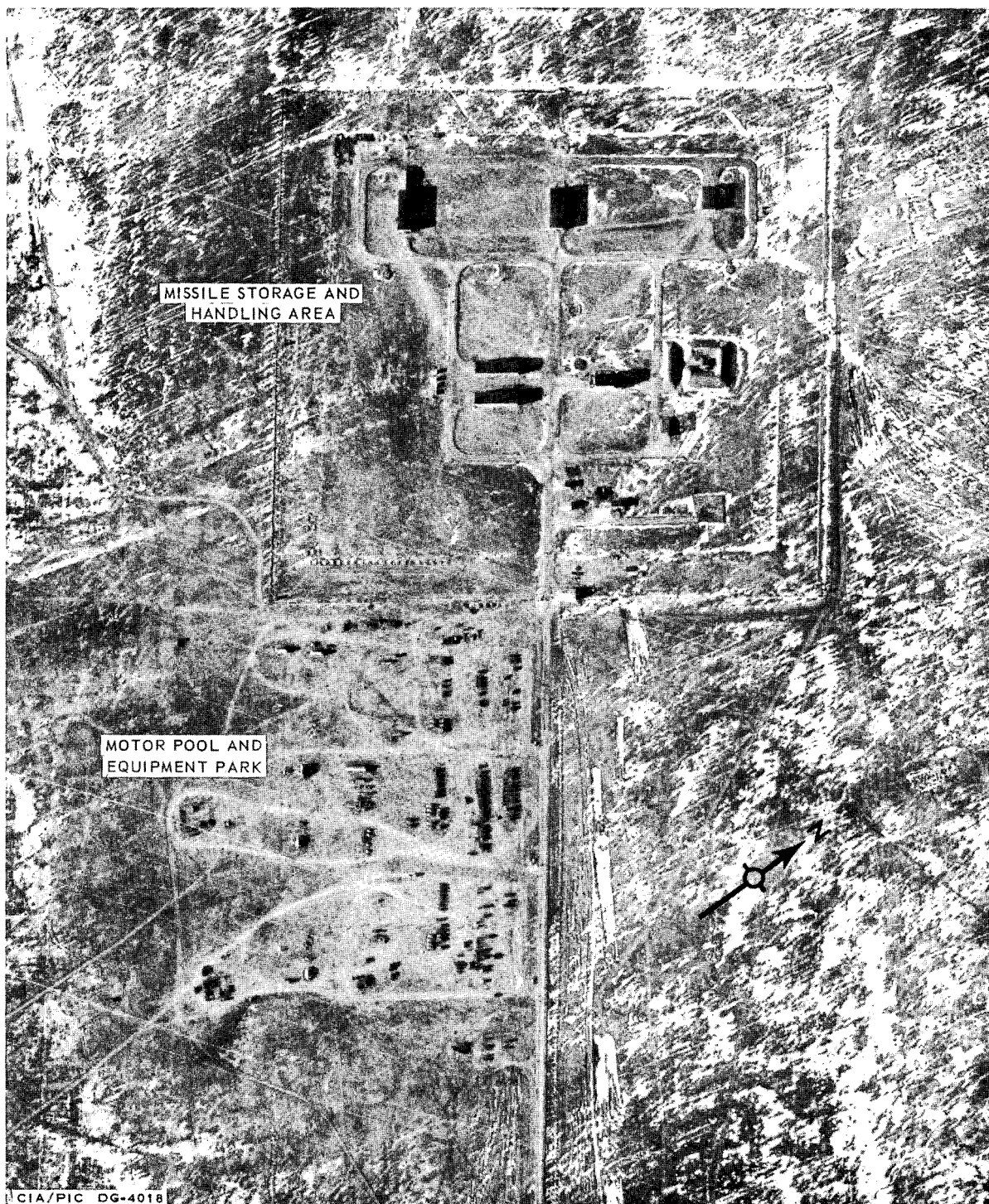


FIGURE 7. MISSILE STORAGE AND HANDLING AREA AND THE ADJACENT MOTOR POOL AND EQUIPMENT PARK (photography).

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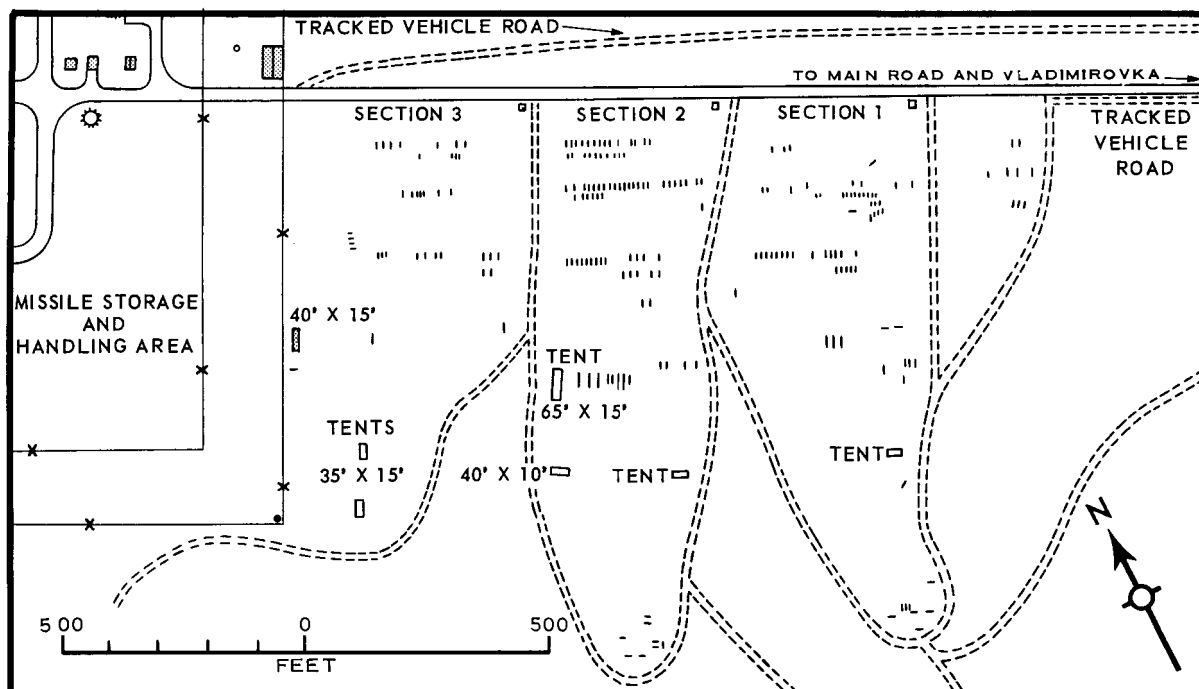
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### VEHICLES AND EQUIPMENT LAUNCH COMPLEX "G"

TYPE	SECTION			TOTAL
	ONE	TWO	THREE	
Missile Transporters*	0	2	2	(1) 7
Collapsible Missile Cranes**	0	1	0	(1) 3
Erectors***	1	2	0	(1) 5
Tracked Prime Movers*, ***	5	3	3	(3) 17
U/I Equipment (trailers)	2	2	0	(1) 5
Trucks or Vans, GAZ 51/63 or ZIS/ZIL	45	59	26	(21) 151
GAZ 60, Jeep type	5	3	4	(1) 13
Propellant Trucks	4	5	2	(2) 13
Propellant Trailers	0	4	0	(0) 4
Trailers (utility type)	21	23	8	(11) 63
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>(42) 281</b>

\* In addition, two covered missile transporters, each towed by a tracked prime mover, are in transit to the launch area.

\*\* In addition, a crane is located at an inactive launch site.

\*\*\* In addition, one erector towed by a tracked prime mover is in transit to the launch area.

FIGURE 8. MOTOR POOL AND EQUIPMENT PART. The vehicles and equipment are arranged in three distinct unfenced sections. In the tables, the count at the active launch site is indicated in parentheses and is probably associated with Section 3.

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25X1D A graded earthen strip, measuring 1,350 by 200 feet, is located 1,400 feet west of the Motor Pool and Equipment Park. It is oriented approximately east/west. Since this strip was evident on the [REDACTED] photo coverage, it is probably not an integral part of this complex.

There are three van-type trucks, two pyramidal tents, a possible semiburied tent or covered dugout, and five unidentified objects located near the southeast end of the graded strip. The purpose or function of this equipment has not been determined; however, they are probably assigned to one or more of the three sections at the Motor Pool and Equipment Park.

#### Transloading Area

25X1D The Transloading Area (Figure 9) is located about one mile east of the Missile Storage and Handling Area, between the branch rail line and road from Vladimirovka. The single-track rail line, which leads from Vladimirovka to Launch Complex "D", broadens to a width of three tracks within this area. These three tracks, which were present on the [REDACTED] coverage, include the

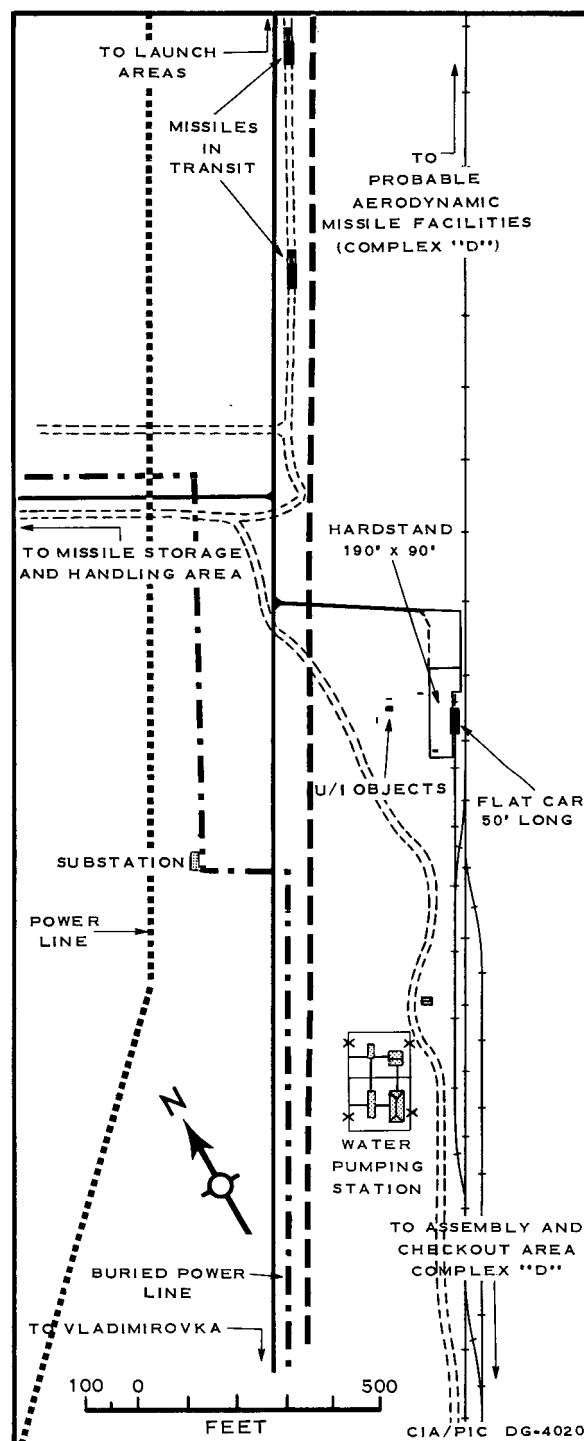


FIGURE 9. TRANSLOADING AREA. This facility is located one mile from the Missile Storage and Handling Area and 6 miles from the launch areas.

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rail line between Vladimirovka and Launch Complex "D", a spur line leading to the Assembly and Checkout Area for Complex "D", and a double-end siding with a dead-end siding extending north to an off-loading hardstand and ramp.

Located at the terminus of the dead-end siding is a concrete hardstand, which measures 190 by 90 feet overall, and an adjoining ramp for side- and end-loading. The hardstand and ramps have been so constructed as to facilitate off-loading at rail car bed height. A flat car, about 50 feet long, is parked adjacent to the off-loading hardstand. Centered on the flat car is a large crate which measures 30 to 35 feet long and is as wide as the car.

There are five unidentified objects located on or immediately west of the transloading hardstand. Quality and scale of photography preclude identification of these objects. No vehicles were parked in the Transloading Area at the time of overflight.

In the vicinity of the Transloading Area, between the road and rail line, is a fenced water pumping station, which includes the small building off the northeast corner of the enclosure. This pumping station is identical to another such facility located 5 miles to the north.

25X1D

An overhead power line, new since [REDACTED] and passing immediately west of this area, extends from Vladimirovka to Launch Complex "D" and generally parallels the main road. A substation, also new since [REDACTED] photo coverage, is located along this power line and adjacent to the Transloading Area. This facility consists of a small flat-roofed building which measures 40 by 15 feet. A small transformer yard is situated between the building and the overhead power line. A ground scar indicating a buried power cable, leads from the substation to the Missile Storage and Handling Area and also to the Assembly and Checkout Area of Launch Complex "D".

25X1D

#### Housing Area

The Housing Area (Figure 10) is located east of the rail line and south

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NOFORN

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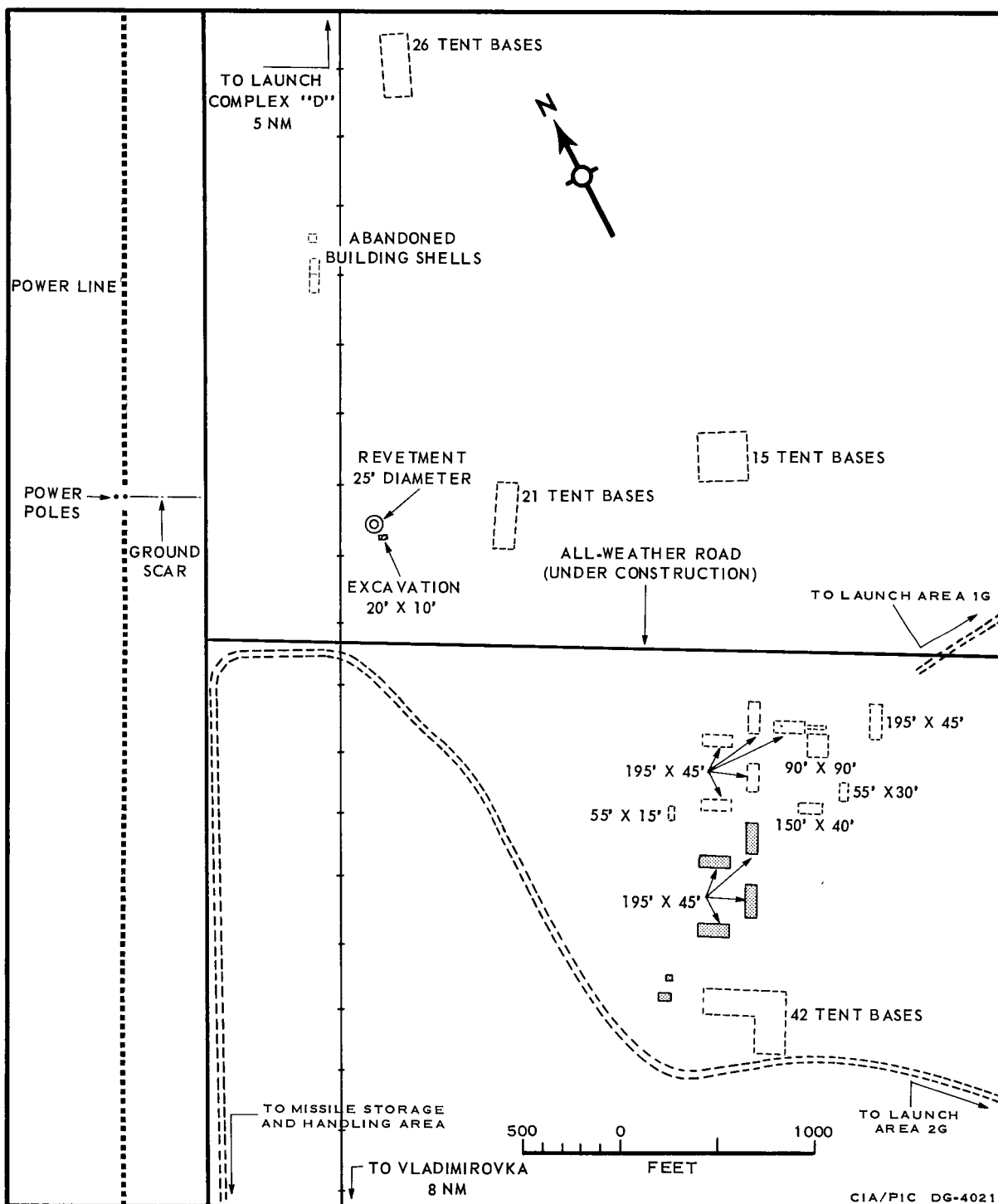


FIGURE 10. HOUSING AREA UNDER CONSTRUCTION. When completed, this facility could accommodate more than 500 persons.

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of the all-weather road under construction to the launch areas. It is approximately 2 miles from the launch areas, and traffic proceeding from the Missile Storage and Handling Area to the launch areas must pass through this area. This unsecured area includes 6 completed buildings, 9 buildings under construction, and 4 clusters of tent bases totaling 104. These tent bases are typical of construction camp sites.

There are four single-story gable-roofed buildings, measuring 195 by 45 feet, each containing a total floor space of 8,775 square feet. Four other identical buildings are located immediately east of and at right angles to these buildings. Two of the buildings in each group are under construction. Their combined total floor space is 70,200 square feet. A total of 470 persons could be accommodated within these eight buildings at an assigned space of 150 square feet per person. However, it is likely that at least a portion of these buildings may be utilized for classrooms at a complex of this type.

Nearby there are two large single-story buildings under construction which will probably be utilized for messing and recreation purposes. One measures 195 by 45 feet and the other 90 feet square. It appears that these two buildings will be connected by an enclosed passageway. Immediately east of these is a single-story, gable-roofed, barracks-type building which measures 195 by 45 feet and is capable of housing 58 persons. This brings the total number of persons who could be billeted at this area to 528, at 150 square feet per person. Two other single-story buildings are being constructed nearby. One measures 150 by 40 feet and the other 55 by 30 feet. The smaller building is divided into two bays, and it appears that it will be flat roofed.

Electrical power into this area is provided by the power line which parallels the road leading from Vladimirovka. A ground scar, probably a buried power line, leads from the only double-set of power poles and terminates where it intersects the road. If indeed this is a buried power line, it probably parallels the main road from Vladimirovka and then into this facility.

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A circular revetment 25 feet in diameter, and an excavation 20 by 10 feet are located immediately east of the branch rail line. Probably neither of these is associated functionally with the Housing Area.

### CONCLUSIONS

Troop Training Launch Complex "G" is a field launch facility for training troops in the use and deployment of an operational road-mobile missile system. The missile employed at this complex is probably a modified V-2 or Korolov-type missile, using V-2 type ground support equipment. The many permanent facilities either under construction or in being indicate that the complex has been designed as a permanent training facility. In contrast to other missile systems developed at Kapustin Yar, Complex "G" has been constructed solely for the use of a missile on which research and development has been conducted at another launch complex.

The number and pattern of revetments at each site at Launch Area 2G and the number and arrangement of buildings within the Missile Storage and Handling Area may represent a standard requirement at deployed operational missile sites.

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NOFORN [REDACTED]

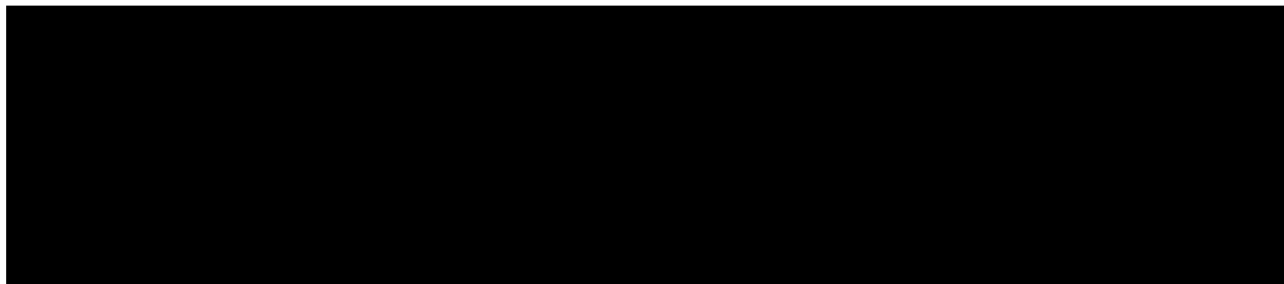
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